



United States Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
NORTHEAST REGION
One Blackburn Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930

January 24, 2001

Federal Permit Number: «NUM»
«OWN»
«STRT1»
«STRT2»
«CITY», «ST» «ZIP»

Dear Permit Holder:

On January 10, 2001, new reporting requirements for Atlantic herring became effective (Permit Holder Letter December 8, 2000). These regulations include detailed dealer and vessel reporting requirements, as well as additional vessel reporting for monitoring the area quotas. Enclosed are the instructions for Federally permitted Atlantic herring vessels to submit weekly reports to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) using the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) System. These are being sent to owner/operators of vessels issued a Federal Atlantic herring permit.

Vessel Weekly IVR Fishing Reports

Owner/operators of vessels issued a Federal Atlantic herring Category 1 permit, which requires a VMS unit, must submit a report through the IVR system for each week. Reports are required even if still at sea and for weeks when herring are not caught.

Owners/operators of vessels issued a Federal Atlantic herring Category 2 permit, which does not require a VMS unit on board, that catch more than 2,000 pounds of Atlantic herring on any trip in a week, must submit an Atlantic herring catch report for all trips in the given week via the IVR system even if the herring has not yet been landed. Reports are not required for weeks when herring are not caught or when the amount of Atlantic herring caught is less than 2,000 pounds on each trip in a week.

The IVR system is a system for calling in weekly summaries of Atlantic herring catches using a touch-tone telephone. A weekly catch report or summary consists of all the Atlantic herring caught by a particular vessel in a week from all trips in that week. The reporting week begins on Sunday at 0001 hrs (12:01 AM) local time and ends Saturday at 2400 hrs (12:00 midnight). A list of the week-ending dates and the week numbers for 2001 is enclosed. Reports must be submitted by midnight Tuesday, three days after the end of each reporting week.

Owners/operators who have not used the IVR system in the past will be assigned a confidential and unique access code. Codes should be kept private and not disclosed to others. Your unique code is enclosed in this packet. In the event that you lose your code, please contact the Fisheries Statistics Office at the number below. When calling this number for your code, please supply your Federal permit number as well as your vessel name. A new access code will be mailed to you.

Vessel Trip Reports

If you have a Federal Atlantic herring permit, you must submit reports for all fishing trips, regardless of species fished for or caught. These reports must be submitted monthly (no later than the 15th day of the following month after a fishing trip(s)). If no fish are landed or no fishing trip is taken during a month, a report so stating must be submitted. We will send you the appropriate forms and instructions for these reports shortly after you receive your Federal Atlantic herring permit.

Carrier or processing vessels that have been issued a Federal Atlantic herring permit with trip reporting requirements are only required to submit logs for trips that they engaged in fishing activity. If no fishing trip is taken during a month, the negative report, as stated above, is required.

For additional information contained in this letter, please contact the following:

IVR information	Fisheries Statistics Office	(978) 281-9212
Federal Permits	Permit Office	(978) 281-9370
Other reporting information	Local Port Agent	See attached list
Other reporting information	Regional Office Email	reporting.ne@noaa.gov
Information mentioned in this letter	Fisheries Statistics Office Website	http://www.nero.nmfs.gov/ro/doc/nero.html

Sincerely,

Greg Power, Chief
Fisheries Information Section

Enclosures